Application No.: 10/622,485 Docket No.: 32140-189120

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended, claim 3 is cancelled and claims 9-13 are added.

Applicants thank Examiner Sukman for recognizing allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 8. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 3, and claim 8 is rewritten in independent form. New claims 9-13 depend from claim 8 and correspond to claims 2 and 4-7, respectively.

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 8 were objected to based on various informalities. By this Amendment, these informalities have been addressed. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to address the rejection. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,767,215 to Brown. The rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, the features of objected-to claim 3 have been added to claim 1 and, therefore, the rejection is moot. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Brown. The rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, the features of objected-to claim 3 have been added to claim 1 and, therefore, the rejection is moot. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Dated: January 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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